

The House Committee on Judiciary offers the following substitute to HB 368:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the authority of counties to buy property sold under tax executions, so as to prohibit county tax commissioners from purchasing property offered for sale under tax executions or tax foreclosure proceedings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the authority of counties to buy property sold under tax executions, is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new Code Section 48-4-23 to read as follows:

"48-4-23.

A tax commissioner and his or her employees may not, directly or indirectly, acquire an interest in, buy, or profit from any real property sold by the county for which he or she serves for delinquent taxes, except that such individual may purchase property sold for delinquent taxes if he or she has any ownership interest in the property and had an ownership interest in the property at the time the taxes became delinquent. An individual violating this Code section shall be guilty of a felony and shall be fined not more than \$5,000.00 or imprisoned for not less than one year, or both. A real property sale in violation of this Code section shall be void."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.